

1950

The Gospel Tract Series No.1: The Bible Is Of God

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Recommended Citation

Smith, Eugene S., "The Gospel Tract Series No.1: The Bible Is Of God" (1950). *Stone-Campbell Books*. 498.
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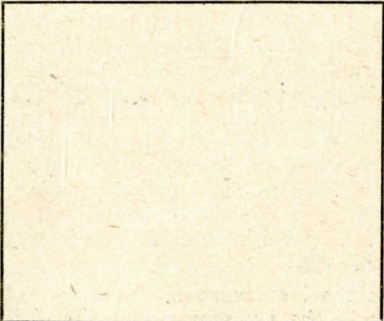
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**T H E B I B L E
I S O F G O D**

**No. 1
of
The Gospel Tract Series**

**By Eugene S. Smith
Dallas 8, Texas**

Presented by



THE BIBLE IS OF GOD

No. 1 of The Gospel Tract Series

God has given us a book, yea the **book**, the Bible, to guide us home to heaven. Sixty-six books make up this Book of Books and they are given us by about forty writers. However, these men are not the authors of what they have put down for us to read. Over a period of fifteen hundred years these men, "spake from God, being moved by the Holy Spirit" (II. Peter 1:21).

This book, the Bible, is that scripture "inspired of God" and it is "profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be complete" (II Tim. 3:16,17). It is the **book** which is to us, as it was to David in the long ago, "a lamp unto my feet, and light unto my path" (Psa. 119:105).

There are two kinds of proof of the fact that the Bible is inspired of God. The first is the internal proof, the evidence within the book itself, which shows that it is of God. The second is the external proof, the evidence outside the book, which declares it to be inspired of God. We want to briefly consider some things from each of these that our faith may be strong to stand in the midst of skepticism and infidelity which flourish in the world in this day.

Internal evidence is the most valuable in the examination of the claims for any subject or object. The best

way to determine the nature of anything is by the examination of the thing itself. If we want to know the contents of a bowl on the table the best way is to look into the bowl and examine its contents. Therefore we turn first to the internal evidence of inspiration of the Bible to show that it is a book from God.

First, the unity of the Bible declares its inspiration. Beginning with Genesis, we follow the central theme throughout its sixty-six books and find no contradiction or lack of harmony whatsoever. Christ is the central theme of every book from first to last, and we find complete unity throughout in foretelling of Christ and His work and His accomplishment of that work. Infidels have searched for contradictions in the Bible and have found no more than slight variations of words which are in fact no contradiction but are found harmonious when they are carefully and fairly examined. Thus, in the fact that forty men, over a period of fifteen hundred years, produced a series of sixty-six books which in fact make up one entirely harmonious book, we have one of the greatest internal evidences of the inspiration of the Word.

Second, the prophetic accuracy of the Bible declares its inspiration. Throughout its sixty-six books prophetic statements are made in which not only major events are predicted but even the minor details of such events are set forth. On the pages of

history, both secular and divine, we have the fulfillment of these prophecies declared and in all of them not one minor detail is found to be lacking. Men have prophesied, but the high percentage of error in their predictions makes the Bible stand out more clearly, and forever shows that inspiration was necessary to the production of such a book.

Third, we have the historic and geographic accuracy of the Bible to declare its inspiration. Although this book does not profess to be a historical or a geographical treatise, yet in all of its pages not one error along these lines can be discovered. When the Bible speaks of a place geographically it is found to be correct. Geographers have marvelled at its accuracy, and this is even more remarkable when we know that some of the writers had never visited the land whereof they wrote.

So also it is with history, for though men thought in times past they had found the Bible to be in error, they have now been made aware of their own mistakes. Certain events recorded in the Bible were challenged by the enemies of the Bible as being contrary to historical facts, but in excavations of recent years data has been unearthed which has substantiated every challenged line of the Bible and has put to flight its critics. Today there are standing rewards for any one who can prove any statement of the Bible to be

historically or geographically incorrect. Thus its inspiration is declared, for how could men, unfamiliar with the land and events of which they wrote, have been so accurate without the guiding hand of God upon them.

Now let us turn to the external evidence of the inspiration of the Word, for here even the enemies of the Word bear witness of its inspiration of God.

First, the popularity of the Bible declares its inspiration. Whereas the books written by men are soon revised and then discarded, the Bible has come through the ages as the "best seller" in every age and is loved and revered by millions of men and women throughout the earth. Man has in every age accorded the Bible a place which he has denied to all the writings of men and thus has borne witness that it is inspired of God.

Second, the power and strength of the Bible in overcoming its enemies and its critics, has shown its inspiration. No other book has had such enemies, such coalition of powers against it, and yet it has stood. The combined forces of apostate church and civil authority have sought to destroy it and rid the hearts of men of its influence, but it has withstood them all. Infidels have sought to ridicule and laugh it into oblivion, but today they are dead and their books are found only in libraries and museums. while the triumphant Word is found in every home and is familiar to every

heart. Thus, again, the inspiration of the Word is shown to the world.

Third, the superiority of the Bible in every field declares its inspiration. In literature it is unequalled, as a code of laws it stands supreme, as a way of life it is superior to all the philosophies of men, and as a source of comfort and consolation to the weary of heart it stands alone. Man, yes, even infidelic man, has accorded the Bible superiority in all of these fields, and freely confesses that it is not within the ability of man to produce its equal. Thus they have borne witness to the inspiration which is claimed for the Bible and admit that it is not and cannot be from man but is indeed and in truth from God.

Therefore, in view of these facts, undeniable and unquestionable, let us put our trust in God and build our hopes upon the promises of His Word. Since we know that "the way of man is not in himself" (Jer. 10:23), let us turn to God that He may direct our footsteps into and along His pathway that leads home to heaven. Thus, being what He says for us to be by doing what He says for us to do, we can find full comfort and assurance in the knowledge that He will one day fulfill to us every promise which He has made in this Word which we know is not of men but is of God.

Published by
GOSPEL BROADCAST
P. O. Box 4445 Dallas 8, Texas
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